

West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service

For further information contact West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, or call 1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at nass-wv@nass.usda.gov.

January 24, 2003

WEST VIRGINIA PRELIMINARY 2002 FRUIT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Total apple production for 2002 was 95.0 million pounds, 10 percent less than the revised 2001 estimate of 105 million pounds. Utilized production totaled 90.0 million pounds, which was 5 million pounds below 2001. Bearing acres in the State were estimated at 6,500, unchanged from 2001, with an average yield per acre of 14,600 pounds, 1,600 pounds less than 2001. The average price per pound for apples was 9.6 cents, compared with 8.5 cents the previous year. Value of utilized production totaled \$8.63 million, up 6 percent from 2001.

Peach production totaled 10.0 million pounds, down 9 percent or 1 million pounds from 2001. Utilized production in 2002 totaled 10.0 million pounds, down 7 percent or 700,000 pounds from last year. Bearing acres were estimated at 1,100, down 100 from 2001, with an average yield of 9,090 pounds per acre, a decrease of 80 pounds. The price received per pound was estimated at 31.0 cents - an increase of 1.0 cent from 2001. Value of utilized production totaled \$3.1 million - a 3 percent decrease from 2001.

UNITED STATES -- Total apple production in the U.S. during 2002 was estimated at 8.59 billion pounds, 9 percent less than 2001. Of the total production, 8.47 billion pounds were utilized, down 8 percent from the 2001 level. Growers received an average of 19.1 cents per pound, an increase of 3.4 cents from 2001. Value of utilized production totaled \$1.62 billion, an increase of 12 percent from 2001.

The U.S. total peach production (including California Clingstone) in 2002 was estimated at 2.58 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2001. Of this production, 2.47 billion pounds were utilized, up 6 percent from the previous year. The average price received for peaches was 20.5 cents per pound, down 0.6 cents from 2001. Value of utilized production totaled \$507.1 million, up 3 percent from 2001.

INTERNET ACCESS: All NASS reports are now available free of charge on the world wide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and select: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>